

CHAPTER XXXVII.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.

JAMES O. LYFORD.

Two miles west of the main street of Concord the Turkey river spreads into a small lake with irregular wooded shores. On the brow of the slope above the water on the side towards the city stood in colonial days a garrison house to protect the neighboring settlers from the Indians. As early as the year 1735 there was a mill at the lower end of the pond, and in the course of time a little settlement had grown up around it which was afterwards called Millville. To this settlement near the beginning of the nineteenth century was added a house, "which house," says Dr. Bouton, "was the first house of brick in Concord, and was built by Jacob Carter, father of Jacob Carter, now postmaster." The brick house was afterwards used as a farmhouse, and then became a summer residence of George Cheyne Shattuck, M. D., the founder of St. Paul's school.

In this building with modest beginning was started an educational institution which has become famous throughout the United States, and is well known abroad. Its students are from all parts of this country, with some representatives from foreign lands, and its graduates have made their mark in all the walks of life. Its success has been phenomenal, and its present student body is limited only by the capacity of the school to care for pupils. The ordinary academy or boarding-school of the nineteenth century, so common in New England a few decades ago, has given place to the public school, or is eking out an uncertain existence amid adverse surroundings; but this school, unique in its conception, without general endowment save the gifts of its founder during its early years, has expanded to large proportions, until it has become one of the few great preparatory schools of the country. Enlisted in its support is a large body of alumni and friends, who have enriched its surroundings with generous donations, until from the ancient brick structure where the first classes were housed and taught, it has become a collection of buildings imposing in architectural design, and attractive to students and visitors alike. It is suburban and rural, and by the acquisition of contiguous territory is likely to remain so, thus preserving the idea of the founder, that "Physical and moral culture can best be carried on where boys

live and are constantly under the supervision of the teachers and in the country."

Dr. Shattuck's early education at Round Hill school, Northampton, Mass., which for ten years early in the nineteenth century occupied an unusual place among educational institutions, led to his founding a similar school when he came to educate his own sons. From this school of his youth, and from a few others he had known, Dr. Shattuck derived his ideas of a boarding-school for boys. The Round Hill school had closed because it was strictly a private enterprise, started and conducted by gentlemen of very limited means. St. Paul's school was fortunate in the wealth and generosity of its



St. Paul's, Looking South from Pond.

founder, who gave liberally during its early years, and who promoted its expansion and improvement by all means in his power as opportunity occurred. With a few restrictions in his deed of the gift of his property, to prevent the mortgaging of it for any purpose, to perpetuate its control in the Protestant Episcopal church, and to secure religious education in conformity with the doctrines of that church, Dr. Shattuck left the management entirely to its board of trustees, content to remain its constant helping friend.

Finding in his summer home, with its sequestered position among wooded hills and pleasant waters, a place fit for the fulfilment of his desire, Dr. Shattuck determined to devote it to that purpose. On June 26, 1855, St. Paul's school was incorporated by the New Hampshire legislature.¹

¹ See notes at conclusion of chapter.

The incorporators met at the home of Dr. Shattuck in Millville, September 5, 1855, and organized the school by choosing trustees, all of whom were his personal friends. A deed of gift by Dr. Shattuck and his wife conveying to St. Paul's school, under the conditions before mentioned, three pieces of land situated on opposite sides of the road leading from Concord to Dunbarton, containing fifty-five and one third acres, together with certain buildings thereon, was presented and accepted. At this meeting the general plan of the school was considered and arrangements made for its opening at as early a date as possible. The old brick house had been enlarged and improved to make it a comfortable summer residence. With a few alterations and the supply of school furniture this building became the starting point of an educational institution. It was voted that the title of the principal of the school should be the "rector," and Roger S. Howard, of Bangor, Me., was chosen to that office.

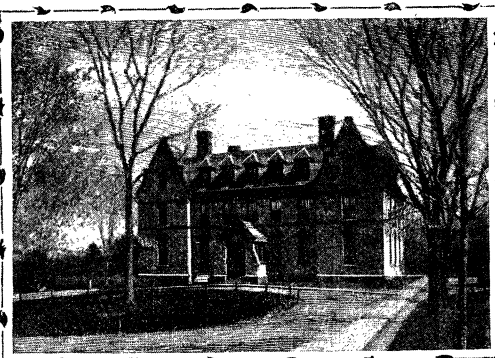
Mr. Howard having declined the rectorship, the Reverend Henry A. Coit, then a missionary in Northern New York, was elected at a meeting of the trustees held January 15, 1856. While this offer to Mr. Coit was a compliment to his ability, for it put upon him the task of creating a school on the lines laid down by its founder, it was far from flattering in a worldly sense. He was frankly told, "You have possession of lands and buildings, but we cannot promise you a salary, and you must derive your support from the fees of the scholars." He began the work under these conditions. It was emphatically a work of faith. How well he succeeded the history of the school is a living testimonial.

Dr. Coit was married early in the spring to Miss Mary Bowman Wheeler, of Philadelphia, and arrived with his wife in Concord, April 3, 1856. The school opened with three boys, George B. Shattuck, Horatio Bigelow, and Frederick C. Shattuck of Boston. The first and last were sons of Dr. Shattuck. Other boys came later, and the number soon exceeded ten. All the work of the school was done in that one brick house during the early days. For more than two years the boys walked to St. Paul's church in Concord every Sunday to the morning service, and in the afternoon attended with the rector a service which he held in the old red schoolhouse of the district. At first the rector, with one assistant, did the work of the school. There was a great difference between the school order of a day in June, 1856, when only a dozen boys comprised the household, and the order which now regulates the day for several hundred boys. During the summer session of 1856 the rising bell was at 5 a. m., prayers at 5:45, breakfast at 6. The study and recitation hours were from 7 a. m. until 1:30 p. m., broken by fif-

teen minutes in-
termission at 9
and half an hour at 11. Tea
came at 6:30 p. m., and there
was an evening study hour from
8 to 9. The division of the
school year was also very differ-
ent from the present.

The decade following the first
opening of the school was nec-
essarily a time of germin-
ation. There were many
arrangements of the details
of school life which had to
be tested before their value
or suitableness could be de-
cided. The methods which
have gradually come into
use are a growth from the
trials and experiences of
early years. During this
same period large additions
were made to the accommodations
and appliances by the generous pro-
vision of Dr. Shattuck, augmented
by savings from the annual income.
In the spring of 1858 a wing was
built on the southwest side of the
house. The number of places for
boys was thus increased to forty.
During the same year a chapel was
built and furnished, and ten years
later enlarged, all at the expense of
the founder. The bell in St. Paul's
chapel and the "quarter bell" that

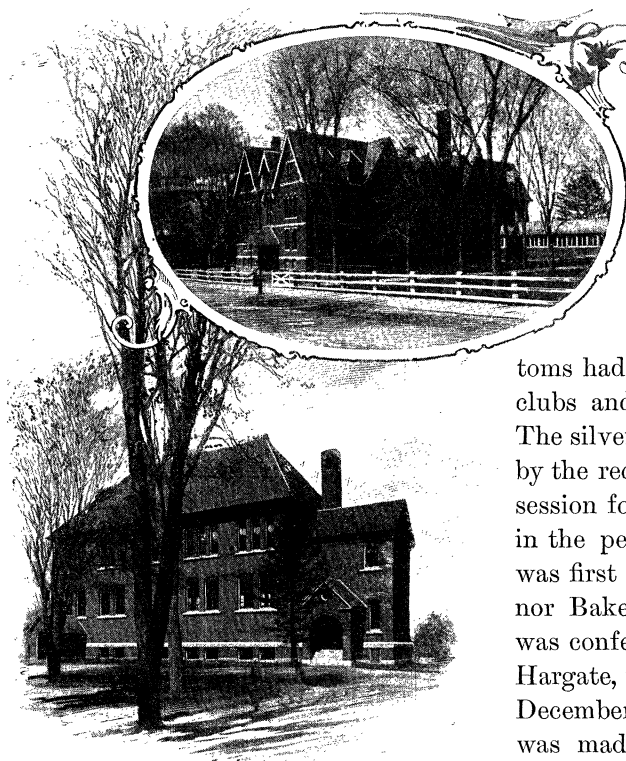
now hangs in front of the schoolhouse have a history. They were
taken from an old convent in Mexico, and hung for a long time in
one of the railroad stations of Boston. In 1858 they were recast, and
given by Dr. Shattuck to the school. He also presented the school
with a small but valuable cabinet of natural history, the beginning
of the present large collection. At the opening of the session in 1859
forty-three boys were in attendance. There were no vacancies, and
applications began to be placed on file for those which would occur



Upper School.

The School.

Lower School.



Gymnasium.

Schoolhouse.

later;—a custom which has since prevailed, until now the vacancies occasioned by the graduation of a class are all spoken for long in advance.

It was during the first fifteen years that many of the present school customs had their rise, and most of the clubs and societies were organized. The silver medal which is now given by the rector on the last night of the session for distinguished excellence in the performance of school duties was first offered in 1857 by Governor Baker, one of the trustees. It was conferred that year upon John Hargate, who entered the school in December, 1856, and who in 1861 was made a master of the school and is now at the head of the upper school.

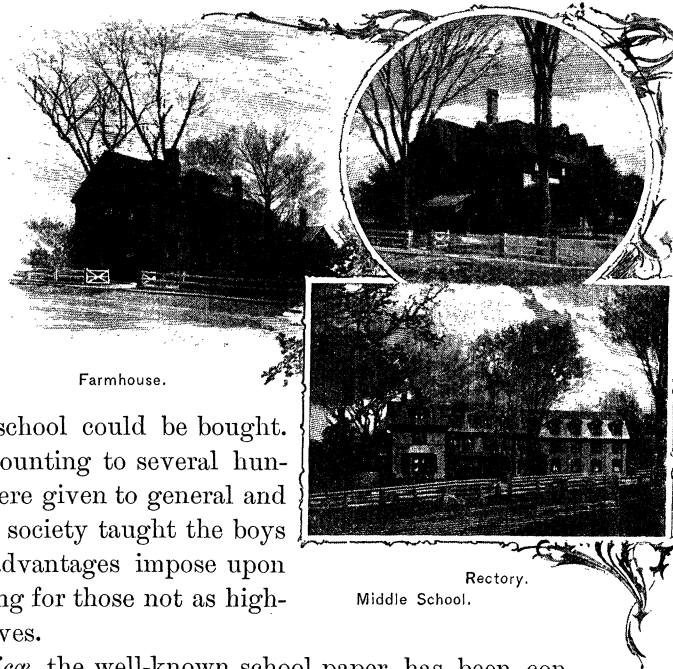
The founder's birthday, July 23, was observed as the school fête day as long as the session included July; but after 1862, a day in the early part of June was set apart as founder's day. What is now called "anniversary" is really a celebration of Dr. Shattuck's birthday.

A gymnasium, with a bowling alley, was built by the founder in 1859, and contributed to the health and pleasure of the boys for nineteen years, or until it was replaced by the new gymnasium.

Dr. Shattuck, who strongly advocated out-of-door sports, introduced the game of cricket in June, 1857. The two elevens were first composed of boys sitting on opposite sides of a long dining-table. Baseball had none of the prominence which it now has, and its popularity followed long after cricket had taken root at St. Paul's. The school has devoted about one hundred acres of the best land it owns to grounds for sports, and the work and expense of putting these grounds into their present condition have been the contributions of teachers, students, and friends. The school also favors boating, swimming, and skating, and much attention is given to these sports.

The Missionary society was started by the rector in 1860. It was

designed to assist in the moral training of the older boys. Its purpose is to interest its members in charitable work, and it is limited to thirty members. A store was conducted for several years by the society, at which most of the small things needed at the school could be bought. The profits, often amounting to several hundred dollars a year, were given to general and special charity. The society taught the boys to realize that their advantages impose upon them the duty of caring for those not as highly favored as themselves.



The *Horæ Scholasticæ*, the well-known school paper, has been conducted by the Missionary society since its foundation. The editorial board is composed of members of this society. The money received from the *Horæ* goes into its treasury. The paper has had a continuous existence of thirty-four years, and its columns contain a large part of the history of the school. All the fête days, games, celebrations, buildings, gifts, and societies of the school are described in its pages. In late years a great deal of information about the graduates of the school has been given, the honors they have won at college, the public interests with which they have been concerned, and facts connected with their personal history.

In the first statement of the school, issued in 1858, it appears that a library of three hundred and fifty volumes, under the management of the boys, had been formed. The increase was not rapid for the next few years, but in 1873 a home was found for such collections as had been made in the new schoolhouse, built in 1872. A library association was formed, and the number of volumes is now nearly fifteen thousand. Its present home is the gift of the children of a former trustee, William C. Sheldon, and is a handsome building with all modern appointments.

The boy choir of the school is one of its features, and has connected with it a host of pleasant memories. It has for many years been the pride and delight of the school. For thirty-two years the instruction and training in vocal music have been the work of James C.

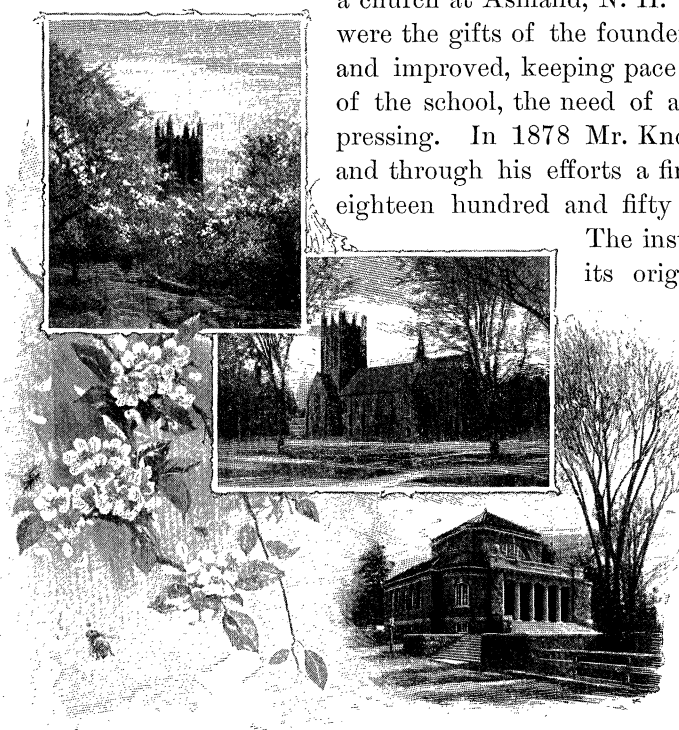
Knox, who began at the school as a pupil. The boys cheerfully give both study and play hours to practising, though no release from the regular school work is ever gained thereby. A holiday in the summer term and one or two festivals in the fall and winter have been the only gratifications allowed.

Four organs have been in use in the school chapels at different periods. The first, which stood in the old chapel, was small, and is now in St. John's church, Dunbarton. The second organ, costing eight hundred dollars, was in use from 1868 to 1878. It is now in

a church at Ashland, N. H. Both of these organs were the gifts of the founder. As the choir grew and improved, keeping pace with the enlargement of the school, the need of a better organ became pressing. In 1878 Mr. Knox took the matter up and through his efforts a fine new organ, costing eighteen hundred and fifty dollars, was secured.

The instrument still occupies its original position in the

old chapel. When the new chapel was built it seemed necessary to put in an organ in keeping with the building. The necessary sum was raised within two years, and the school now has an organ which has been pronounced as fine in tone and quality as any in New England.



Chapel and Sheldon Library.

It is impossible to describe here in detail the growth of the school, the enlargement and addition of buildings, the improvement of grounds, the generosity of the founder in responding to the current needs, and the interest invoked in alumni and friends to provide for the school. Dr. Shattuck gave, from first to last, one hundred thousand dollars; and the liberality of friends is attested by the beautiful chapel, library, and other buildings which add to the picturesqueness of the locality. The domain of the school had increased to one hundred and eighty-five acres in 1876, to five hundred and fifty acres in 1891, and now includes about nine hundred acres.

As early as 1875 the need of a new chapel was felt. The year 1880 marked the first steps towards raising the funds therefor. The rector's wife gave the first impulse, and received the first gifts. The Reverend William Stanley Emery, a graduate of the school, brought the subject to the attention of the alumni society in June, 1882. In one year over fifty thousand dollars had been subscribed. By May, 1885, the fund had grown to eighty thousand dollars, and in May, 1886, the total amount subscribed was one hundred and one thousand three hundred and forty-four dollars and eight cents. Up to the present time there has been expended upon it, exclusive of the endowment of twenty-five thousand dollars for its maintenance, the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. It was consecrated June 5, 1888. The tower is a memorial to Mrs. Henry A. Coit, whose sacrifice and devotion, co-operating with the special gifts of her husband, exerted the largest and best influence in moulding and fashioning the life and spirit of the school.

With all the generous gifts made to it the school has not been without its misfortunes. The greatest of these was the fire of July, 1878. The old brick structure, which, with additions, furnished accommodations for eighty boys, was struck by lightning and totally destroyed. There were but six weeks remaining of the summer's vacation, and it did not seem possible to provide accommodations for the boys by the beginning of the school year. Many friends of the school were despondent, and some advised putting off the opening for two or three months, but the rector's resolute energy met the difficulties in the right way. The essential thing was to have no break in the school year. After hurried consultations with builders and others, he concluded that it would be possible, even in the short time, to arrange for the reception of every boy; and when the regular day for opening the fall term arrived, the wreck and rubbish of the fire had been cleared away, various temporary arrangements had been completed, and the school began the term of 1878-'79 with undiminished numbers and with fairly satisfactory accommodations for every pupil.

The founder of the school died in Boston, March 22, 1893. For nearly twenty years he was a professor in the Harvard Medical school, and for part of this time dean of the medical faculty. He was one of the visiting physicians of the Massachusetts General hospital for thirty-six years, and president of the Massachusetts Medical society from 1872 to 1874, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the American Statistical society, and a member of the American Historical and Genealogical society. Besides his gifts to St. Paul's school, a church school at Faribault, Minn.,

bears his name in recognition of generous help. Both the College of St. James, Md., and Trinity college are indebted to him for courses of lectures given without compensation.

On Tuesday morning, February 5, 1895, occurred the death of the first rector, Dr. Henry Augustus Coit. His resting-place is the school cemetery. His grave is marked by a tall Celtic cross of gray stone. He served in various positions of responsibility in the diocese, and received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Trinity college in 1863, and the same degree from Columbia in 1887, and the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale university in 1891. He was elected president of Trinity college in 1867, which he declined, as he did in 1871, when chosen president of Hobart college. In 1871 he was

elected on the first ballot of the clergy, bishop of New Hampshire, but, not being confirmed by the laity, withdrew, counseling union and good feeling. He also declined calls to several prominent churches, preferring his work at St. Paul's school. What the school gained by his sacrifice is written in every line of the first thirty-nine years of its history. The school is a lasting



Orphans' Home, St. Paul's School.

memorial both to him and to its founder.

He was succeeded as rector by his brother, Reverend Joseph Howland Coit, D. D., LL. D., who had been vice-rector for thirty years. This selection was most fortunate for the school. Thoroughly imbued with its spirit, he not only took up the work where the first rector had laid it down, carrying it on without perceptible change of administration, but projected its sphere of future usefulness and growth. The success of his management is attested by the continued enlargement and prosperity of the school. In his administration of the school the present rector has been ably assisted by a younger brother, Dr. J. Milnor Coit, upon whom has fallen the past two years a large share of the management, so that the names of the Coits and Dr. Shattuck, the founder, are inseparably linked with its history and tradition.

The Orphans' Home. This charity had its origin in the pity felt by the rector and his wife for the children of Concord and other towns of New Hampshire, whom the Civil War had left fatherless or whose parents were both dead, and for whose care and education neither public nor private benevolence had made any adequate provision. The date of the opening of the Home was April 4, 1866. A house was secured at the crossing of the Hopkinton and Long Pond roads. Here a matron and ten children were established. The people of Concord sympathized warmly with the project, and contributed liberally to its various needs, while the school became at once deeply interested. The boys gave money, clothing, books, and toys. In many cases they persuaded their parents and friends to contribute to a charity which seemed close to their own hearts. The present site of the Home was purchased in 1868, and on its removal to its new quarters the number of its children was increased, and the expense of its maintenance was necessarily enlarged.

At this time sprang up the Shaker brotherhood, a set of four boys who devoted themselves to collecting funds from their companions for the Orphans' Home. In soliciting funds they made all sorts of pleas, some of them quaint and humorous. Strange to say, they became quite popular beggars. They collected more than one thousand dollars in four years. The number of Shakers was afterward increased to six. The brotherhood lasted only a few years, but in that time it did good service and started an excellent tradition.

The custom of having a donation day for the Home began in 1869. Committees were appointed from each form to make collections, and with the money obtained purchases were made. Each form had its allotted hour for visiting the Home. After making their contributions, the boys were entertained by the orphans with music and recitations. The present size of the school prevents the retention of some of these customs. The number of children now cared for at the Home is forty-two. A large brick building has been erected and other improvements made. At present there is an endowment of about fifty thousand dollars, twenty-five thousand dollars of which is the gift of the late John H. Pearson of Concord.

Until 1874 the Home was supported chiefly by the school, and was managed by the rector and his wife, aided by friends in Concord. As long as Mrs. Henry A. Coit lived she directed the internal management. In 1874 the rector transferred the property of the Home to a board of trustees, named in an act of incorporation, and the institution became a diocesan one. The pastoral care of its inmates remains with the rector. The fact that the Home has become an establishment belonging to the diocese has not diminished the interest of the boys.

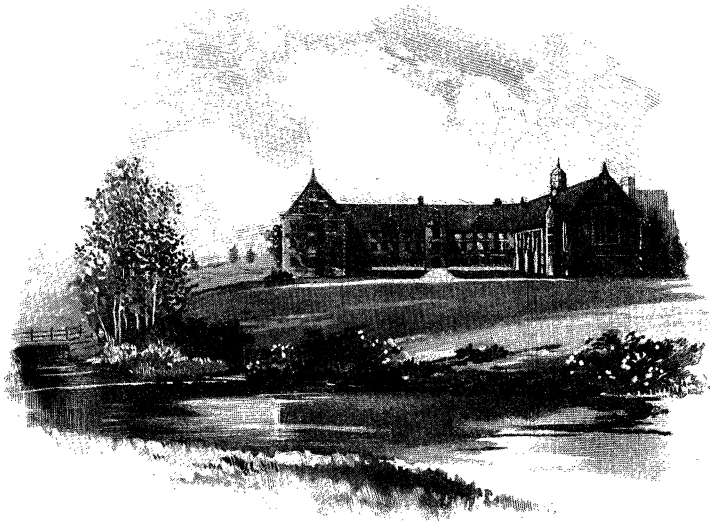
Special Gifts to School. The rectory, before its two enlargements, was built and furnished by gifts of alumni and friends.

The infirmary, in 1876, before enlargement, was built principally by gifts from William M. Evarts, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, and others.

The cost of the gymnasium, built in 1878, was chiefly contributed by masters, boys, alumni, and friends. The Whitney Annex, 1901, containing shower baths, dressing rooms, and rowing tank, is the gift of A. R. Whitney.

The racquet courts, 1882, were built by subscriptions of members of the club and others.

The cottage near the golf links was bought, altered, and enlarged in 1882 with the bequest of an alumnus, Thomas Chew Lewis.



New Upper School.

The new chapel has had expended on it thus far one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, exclusive of its endowment fund,—twenty-five thousand dollars. This amount—with the exception of about five thousand dollars, expended by the school for heating, gas fixtures, chairs, hassocks, etc.—has been given in

sums varying from twenty-five dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars. The donors are Henry G. Marquand, Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Stevens family of Hoboken, N. J., the Wheeler family of Philadelphia, John Paine of Troy, N. Y., Henry Parish of New York, George and William Sheldon, the Evarts family, and many others. The reredos is a memorial to Cornelius Vanderbilt's son, William. The tower was erected as a memorial to Mrs. Coit. The organ is a memorial to A. M. Swift. The sedilia are the memorial of William C. Sheldon. The window over the altar is a memorial of Dr. Shattuck.

The new school, 1879-'80, had about twenty thousand dollars given towards its construction by different persons; its cost exceeded one hundred thousand dollars.

The workshop, 1887, was built and equipped from subscriptions

of boys and friends. Alexander H. Campbell, who organized the shop, collected the money for building and furnishing it.

The laboratory, 1889, was paid for in part by contributions.

The new cricket house was the gift of Richard Stevens of Hoboken, N. J.

About fifty thousand dollars were given toward the erection of the new lower school, in 1890-'91, Cornelius Vanderbilt contributing ten thousand dollars. The building cost one hundred and twelve thousand dollars.

The Sheldon library, 1900-'01, is the gift of the children of a former trustee, William C. Sheldon.

The new upper school, in course of erection, has had one hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars given toward its construction and equipment. Additions to this sum have been promised.

Many gifts to the library, cabinet, to various school objects, such as prizes for the sports and games, to the making of the tennis courts, cricket-field, golf links, toward the boat-house and purchase of new boats, swell the list of tokens of affection and gratitude from boys and friends.

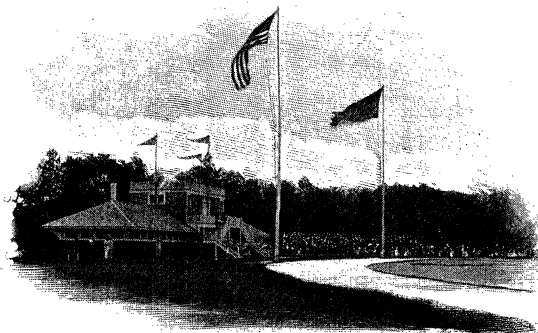
The two Ferguson scholarships endowed by Dr. Ferguson with a fund of over twelve thousand dollars, are valued prizes for distinction in the chief studies,—Latin, Greek, and mathematics. The Valpey prizes, founded by a deceased master, Reverend Thomas G. Valpey, are given to boys receiving first testimonials.

A new and modern chemical and physical laboratory has just been completed, the gift of George Westinghouse of Pittsburg, Penn.

Dr. J. Milnor Coit has since his coming to the school in 1876 conducted the Scientific course, which has proved one of the most successful and creditable departments.

The present estate of the school contains about nine hundred acres of land. The number of buildings is fifty-seven, exclusive of barns. Several of these are old wooden farm buildings which have been adapted to some use by the school, but will eventually be superseded by modern buildings.

The statistics for 1900-'01 were as follows: Number of masters, thirty-seven; number of boys, three hundred and forty-two. These



Athletic House and Playing Field.

boys came from twenty-nine different states, and from Canada, Buenos Ayres, and the Bermudas. New York furnished the largest number, one hundred and twenty-seven.

There have been about two thousand eight hundred alumni registered on the school roll. Of these two hundred and seventy-five have deceased. The number of alumni now living is a little in excess of two thousand five hundred. Many of the alumni are distinguished as lawyers, physicians, authors, clergymen, bankers, and as public men.

INCORPORATORS AND ORIGINAL TRUSTEES.

Right Reverend Horatio Southgate, D. D. (formerly bishop of Constantinople), rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston, Mass.

Reverend Newton E. Marble, D. D., rector of St. Paul's church, Concord.

Nathaniel B. Baker, governor of New Hampshire, 1854.

William F. Otis, Boston.

Isaac F. Redfield, LL. D., chief justice of Vermont.

Matthew Harvey, LL. D., judge of United States district court, Concord.

Jacob Carter, postmaster of Concord.

William E. Coale, M. D., of Boston.

Henry M. Parker of Boston.

Right Reverend Carlton Chase, D. D., bishop of New Hampshire.

Judge Samuel H. Huntington, of Washington, D. C.